

of an even greater friend. While it is a sad day for all Nevadans, it is only appropriate to remember the legacy and leadership he left behind for us to follow. A loss of a true icon in Nevada politics will not be forgotten. . . . We will miss you.—Nevada Republican Party Chairman James Smack.

Shocked to hear of Sen Raggio's passing—last time we spoke, he ranted about legislators needing to put aside politics & work together.—Nevada Sen. Sheila Leslie, D Reno, via Twitter.

Rest in peace Senator Raggio. You will be missed, but never forgotten.—Nevada Sen. Michael Roberson, R Henderson, via Twitter.

But Raggio also saw his Republican Party transform around him. In 2003, when a group of Assembly Republicans refused to vote for a tax plan, Raggio didn't hesitate to excavate a pejorative from earlier in his storied career: He called them "John Birchers." By 2008, he was battling ex-Assemblywoman Sharron Angle in a primary fight for the district he'd held comfortably since 1972.

When Raggio exercised his legendary independence—and a good deal of personal pique—and endorsed Democrat Harry Reid over Angle in the 2010 U.S. Senate race, his party finally left him. He was ousted from his leadership position by Fallon Republican Mike McGinness, and he tendered his resignation from the Legislature for good.

"I think the present leadership of the Republican Party is a little too radical and has been taken over by what I think is a radical element," Raggio said in an interview after he quit, using a true conservative's worst pejorative. "The party has to reshape itself or it won't win general elections down the road."

Mark his words for November.

Back in January 2011, Raggio told me in an interview that the state would go on without him. "Nobody is irreplaceable. You will find that out," he said.

I hope Raggio will forgive me one last time if I simply don't agree.

Mr. REID. He believed in doing what was right for Nevada, even when it wasn't right for his political party. I admired him and respected him. I respected him even when he and I disagreed, and that happened. But we agreed far more than we disagreed.

I can remember the first time I met him. The person I worked for had worked as a deputy district attorney for Bill Raggio. He came to visit me in our law office, and he was always very funny, very articulate, and somebody I admired and, as I indicated, was my mentor. But I can remember him being in that office as if it were 10 minutes ago.

Upon his retirement last year, Bill told a local reporter, "Nobody is irreplaceable. You will see." It seems, once again, though, Bill and I disagreed. No one can replace Bill Raggio. The mark he left on Nevada politics could never be erased, but his powerful political voice and his true personal friendship will be missed.

Senator Raggio was an effective legislator and leader in part because of his willingness to cooperate with those with whom he disagreed. It would serve this Chamber well to emulate his bipartisan approach.

#### WORKING TOGETHER

We have a great deal to accomplish this work period. We need to consider

postal reform legislation. It is mandatory that we do that. We have a pressing cyber-security piece of legislation that the Pentagon says is the most important thing we can do for our country. We have to clear a backlog of judicial nominees that threatens the effectiveness of our court system. But first, we must complete one of the most important tasks facing this Congress: strengthening our economy by rebuilding our Nation's crumbling infrastructure.

Today we will resume progress on the Transportation bill that will put 2 million Americans back to work rebuilding roads, bridges, trains, and their tracks.

The House is also considering transportation legislation. I was glad to see that House Republicans have moved away from that extreme proposal they were considering a few weeks ago. They are going to now try to pass something similar to our bipartisan legislation. This is bipartisan legislation.

Too much rests on our success to let this jobs measure be bogged down by partisanship. President Dwight Eisenhower, a Republican, was the original champion of national infrastructure investment a half century ago. He once said:

Only strength can cooperate. Weakness can only beg.

He was right that it takes strength to work together. But working together also makes us strong. I look forward to working together with my colleagues on both sides as we complete transportation legislation that will make our economy strong.

We have 5 weeks during this work period. We have a lot to do. I hope we can work together to get it done.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### READING OF WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the Senate of January 24, 1901, as amended by the order of February 14, 2012, the Senator from New Hampshire, Mrs. SHAHEEN, will now read Washington's Farewell Address.

Mrs. SHAHEEN, at the rostrum, read the Farewell Address, as follows:

#### TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Friends and Fellow-Citizens: The period for a new election of a citizen to administer the executive government of the United States being not far distant, and the time actually arrived when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you at the same time to do me the justice to be assured that this resolution has not been taken without a strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation which binds a dutiful citizen to his country—and that, in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest, no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness, but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in, the office to which your suffrages have twice called me have been a uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistently with motives which I was not at liberty to disregard, to return to that retirement from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature reflection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

I rejoice that the state of your concerns, external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty or propriety and am persuaded, whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that in the present circumstances of our country you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

The impressions with which I first undertook the arduous trust were explained on the proper occasion. In the discharge of this trust, I will only say that I have, with good intentions, contributed towards the organization and administration of the government the best exertions of which a very fallible judgment was capable. Not unconscious in the outset of the inferiority of my qualifications, experience in my own eyes, perhaps still more in the eyes of others, has strengthened the motives to diffidence of myself, and every day the increasing weight of years admonishes me more and more that the shade of retirement is as necessary to me as it will be welcome. Satisfied that if any circumstances have given peculiar value to my services, they were temporary, I have the consolation to believe that, while choice and prudence invite me to quit the political scene, patriotism does not forbid it.

In looking forward to the moment which is intended to terminate the career of my public life, my feelings do not permit me to suspend the deep acknowledgment of that debt of gratitude which I owe to my beloved country for the many honors it has conferred upon me, still more for the steadfast confidence with which it has supported me and for the opportunities I have thence enjoyed of manifesting my inviolable attachment by services faithful and persevering, though in usefulness unequal to my zeal. If benefits have resulted to our country from these services, let it always be remembered to your praise and as an instructive example in our annals that, under circumstances in which the passions agitated in every direction were liable to mislead, amidst appearances sometimes dubious, vicissitudes of fortune often discouraging, in situations in which not unfrequently want of success has countenanced the spirit of criticism, the constancy of your support was the essential prop of the efforts and a guarantee of the plans by which they were effected. Profoundly penetrated with this idea, I shall carry it with me